



DEPARTMENT *of* AGRICULTURE
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY

MATT BLUNT
GOVERNOR

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DIRECTOR

Organic Certification Cost-Share Program Information

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act authorizes the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide cost-share assistance for national organic certification costs to qualified organic producers (crop, wild crop or livestock) and handlers of agricultural products who obtained certification under the National Organic Program (NOP). The Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) signed a cooperative agreement with USDA-NOP to administer the dissemination of these funds to qualified applicants.

This year Missouri state funds have also been appropriated for the organic certification cost-share program. These state funds will be distributed by MDA under these same guidelines and will help provide cost-share monies to a greater number of organic producers and handlers in Missouri.

To qualify, applicants must complete a signed application and supply a copy of their organic certificates, with an invoice documenting their certification costs. Payments to eligible producers and handlers will be reimbursed for costs incurred for certifications issued during the period of **October 01, 2004 through September 30, 2006** or until all funds are exhausted, whichever comes first. Payments will be limited to 75 percent of individual certification costs, up to a maximum of \$500.00 per application. Applications for cost share funds will be reimbursed in the order they are received and until funds are exhausted or the eligibility period ends, whichever comes first.

Please submit the following items:

- 1. Organic Certification Cost-Share Program Application**
- 2. Copy of Current Certificate of Organic Operation**
- 3. Copy of Itemized Invoices showing fees assessed for certification.**

Mail to: Missouri Department of Agriculture
Organic Certification Cost-Share Program
P.O. Box 630
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102-0630

For Questions Contact: Allan Benjamin
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Division of Plant Industries

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